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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Ref: Response to RM-7649

Dear Commission Members:

I wish to express my support for the petition filed by Tom Blackwell, N5GAR. Assigned file number of RM-7649 on March 6, 1991.

Part 97.205(d) of the Amateur Radio Service Rules and Regulations does allow for automatic operation of a repeater. My understanding of the Rules and Regulations leads me to believe that these rules apply equally to all types of amateur repeaters in automatic operation, including: phone, A.T.V. and digital (packet) repeaters.

Just because packet radio permits storage, forward, and hardcopy printout of the relayed communications, that should not make digital repeaters any more guilty of relaying illegal transmissions, than the other types of repeaters allowed under Part 97.205 (d). If control operators had to read each message, for content, before it was forwarded from his packet repeater, he would have to shut down, since there is not time or the will to read each incoming message.

The originator of an illegal transmission should be the only person held responsible. Control operators of repeaters in automatic operation believe that all legally licensed users should use their system in a legitimate manner. No matter what type of repeater it might be. Control operators and owners, have invested personal time and money, in the setting up and operation of a repeater system that can benefit the entire Amateur Radio community and the public at large.

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'After the earth quake south of San Francisco in October of 1989, packet radio was one of the few modes of communications left to the Amateur Radio community for emergency communications. Many of the emergency, hill-top, phone repeaters failed after backup power systems gave out. Because most packet stations and repeaters are in people's homes or apartments, operators were present, and could remain on the air.

Thank you for considering my opinions on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Allen B. Hubbard, N6VTX